

CAMPAIGN



Theresa May visits London's Smithfield Market with her husband Philip yesterday PA

HUMAN RIGHTS

PM denies U-turn on tackling terrorism

By Richard Wheeler and Sam Lister

Theresa May has denied announcing a U-turn on security powers with her pledge to rip up human rights laws to combat terrorism.

Following the recent terror attacks, the Prime Minister wants to change any laws that are perceived to get in the way of preventing jihadis waging war on Britain.

Her ideas include introducing longer prison sentences for those convicted of terrorist offences; making it easier to deport foreign terror suspects; and doing more to restrict the movement of suspects when they are believed to be a "threat" but there is not enough evidence to prosecute them.

The move could signify another U-turn for the Tories on their manifesto promise to keep Britain in the European Convention on Human Rights until 2022.

But Mrs May faced a backlash from rivals, with Liberal Democrat leader Tim Farron accusing her of launching a "nuclear arms race" in terror laws.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn told *BBC Breakfast*: "We need to make sure we are secure – that means having an efficient, fully staffed police force."

"She's the one who presided over the loss of 20,000 police officers over the past five years."

Former director of public prosecutions and shadow Brexit secretary Sir Keir Starmer said there was "nothing in the Human Rights Act that gets in the way of effectively tackling terrorism".

He said Mrs May was creating a "diversion", adding: "Because she was facing searing questions about resources yesterday, she's now brought up the Human Rights Act as if that stands in the way of the current problem."

Cash Political donations

Union cash helped Labour raise more than £1m in a week during the campaign – but the Conservatives collected more from donors.

Electoral Commission data shows Theresa May's party received £1.15m from those donors contributing more than £7,500, the threshold at which they must be reported. It shows Jeremy Corbyn's party collected £1.04m in the same period from 24 May to 30 May. The Lib Dems received £103,120, the Women's Equality Party £20,544 and the Greens £10,000.

Mr Corbyn's party received £500,000 from Unite during the period covered by the report, with a further £28,000 declared late from the previous week. Most of the Tory donors were individuals, with businessmen Michael Hintze giving £258,333 and Ehud Sheleg £250,000.

Day of judgement on the PM's decision to call snap election

By Nigel Morris
POLITICAL EDITOR

About 30 million voters will today deliver their verdict on Theresa May's dramatic decision to call a snap election three years early.

On the last day of campaigning, the party leaders criss-crossed the country in an attempt to get their message to as many electors as possible.

The final burst of activity brought a frantic end to a seven-week contest which has seen Mrs May's popularity slide and Labour erode the Conservative lead in the polls.

It has also been suspended twice following the terrorist attacks in Manchester and London, forcing policing and security up the election agenda.

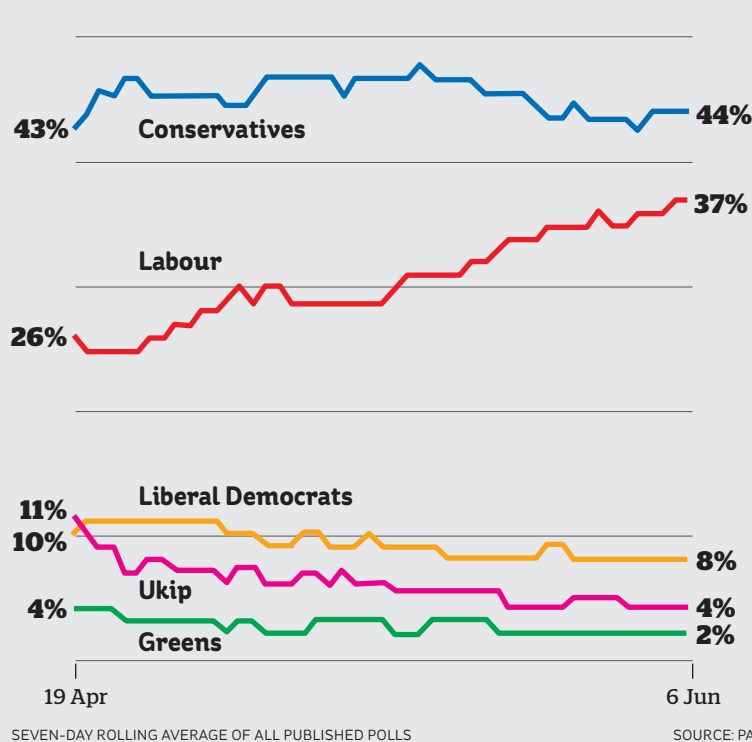
The Prime Minister, who campaigned in London, Southampton, Norfolk and Nottingham yesterday, sought to return the election focus to Brexit, which party strategists believe is her strongest suit.

In her last campaign speech to activists in Birmingham, flanked by members of her Cabinet, she said: "This election is not just about the next five years, it's about setting this country on the right course for generations to come."

"The question is: who do you trust to have the strong and stable leadership to get the best deal for Britain in Europe? Because Brexit matters, it is the basis for everything else."

"Who do you believe has the will and, crucially, the plan, to just get on with the job and deliver Brexit and

Poll of polls Since the general election was declared



make a success of it?"

The Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn addressed thousands of supporters in six rallies across the UK, in which he warned of "five more years of Tory austerity" and promised more spending on hospitals and schools.

His nationwide tour culminated in a speech in London in which he

claimed Labour had "changed the face of British politics".

Earlier the Labour leader suffered a last-minute setback when he announced that the shadow Home Secretary, Diane Abbott, would be taking a break because of ill health.

Tim Farron, whose Liberal Democrats have struggled to make

Poll boost for Tories

In an unpredictable contest, Conservative nerves will have been settled by two eve-of-poll surveys which put the party in a comfortable lead over Labour.

ComRes for *The Independent* put the Tories on 44 per cent, Labour on 34 per cent, the Liberal Democrats on 9 per cent and Ukip on 5 per cent.

ICM for *The Guardian* placed the Tories on 46 per cent support, well ahead of Labour on 34 per cent, with the Lib Dems on 7 per cent and Ukip on 5 per cent.

Mrs May will be heading back to Downing Street with a substantially increased majority if those results are replicated at the ballot box today.

In the past week, however, polls have shown wide variations in the Conservative lead, ranging from Survation's one point, to ComRes's 12-point gap.

The differences have been attributed to the way pollsters compile their data and produce their numbers. Some adjust their figures based on past voting behaviour. Others try to make allowances for turnout.

headway in the campaign, toured Remain-supporting seats including Twickenham, where former minister Sir Vince Cable hopes to make a political comeback.

In a final pitch to voters, Mr Farron said: "We will stand up for you on Europe, on schools and hospitals and to stop the heartless dementia tax."